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Administration Holds Off for The Transition

By Allison Muscatine
and James R. Dickenson

Washington Star Staff Writers

Top aides to President Carter said yesterday, after his representatives had met with a delegation from President-elect Ronald Reagan, that the outgoing administration would defer action on some policy matters to ease the transition of the presidency.

"There are numerous budget matters we will seek to close on," said White House Chief of Staff Jack H. Watson. "On other matters we will defer."

Watson and Edwin Meese, Reagan's transition director, met for 80 minutes in Watson's West Wing office, and were joined by William J. Casey, of Reagan's staff and Alonzo MacDonald, staff director for Carter.

Both Watson and Meese described the meeting as "constructive" and "smooth."

White House Press Secretary Jody Powell said later that there was a general agreement that "we weren't going to try to do things that — just to create problems for them and so forth, and they talked a little bit about legislative things."

Powell said, for example, that Carter would not press forward with welfare reform or national health insurance proposals "because someone else would have the responsibility of implementing those things."

Watson said Carter would discuss a youth employment bill with Democratic congressional leaders today.

There are some 20 judgeships still pending that Carter also hopes will pass.

Meese, hedging on whether Reagan might give in on some of those, said, "We'll just have to wait and see what the congressional leadership wants to do on the judges." Asked if Reagan might give the go-ahead on any of them, Meese replied that they would be decided "on a one-by-one basis."

Carter and Reagan are expected to meet next week at the White House. The president-elect, after a week's vacation at his California ranch, comes to Washington Mon-

day. He plans to spend most of next week conferring with congressional leaders, administration officials, Republican Party leaders, and his transition team, and to get a CIA briefing.

On his return to California a week from tomorrow he is to begin work on his Cabinet appointments, which are expected to be announced beginning early next month.

Meese yesterday outlined the transition organization Reagan will work with. It consists of five working groups for arranging the transfer of authority in the executive branch.

The organization, known as the Office of Executive Branch Management, will be headed by William E. Timmons, Reagan's deputy director of transition and his director of operations during the presidential campaign.

The working units have been designated Economic Affairs, National Affairs, Resources and Development, Human Services and Legal and Administrative Agencies. They will coordinate the transition with the various Cabinet departments and executive agencies.

Each team also will work with members of the House and Senate on the oversight and appropriations committees, with governors and other party leaders, and with business officials and other private citizens.

The leaders of the five groups are Stanton D. Anderson for Economic Affairs, David M. Abshire for National Security, Richard Fairbanks for Resources and Development, Elizabeth H. Dole for Human Services, and Loren A. Smith for Legal and Administrative Agencies.

Anderson, 40, a graduate of Willamette University Law School, was a special assistant to former President Richard Nixon from 1971 to 1973 and deputy assistant secretary of state under President Gerald Ford from 1973 to 1975.

Abshire, 54, is the founder and chairman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University. He was assistant secretary of state from 1970 to 1973 and is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy with a Ph.D. from Georgetown.

Fairbanks, 39, is a graduate of Yale and the Columbia University School of Law and has served on the White House Domestic Council and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dole, a graduate of Duke University and the Harvard Law School, was a member of the Federal Trade Commission from 1973 to 1979 and is married to Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan.

Smith, 39, graduated from Northwestern Law School and was professor of constitutional law at the University of Delaware Law School. He was an assistant to White House Special Counsel James St. Clair during the Nixon Watergate scandal and was a special assistant to the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia.

The National Security group will coordinate with the State and Defense Departments, the CIA, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and other executive agencies. Resources and Development will work with the Departments of Agriculture, Energy and Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other regulatory agencies.

The Human Services group will coordinate with the departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development and related agencies. Economic Affairs will work with the Departments of Treasury, Transportation, Labor, and Commerce, and with the Council on Wage and Price Stability.

The Legal and Administrative unit will work with the Department of Justice, the General Services Administration and with such regulatory agencies as the Federal Communications Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The teams will work on the agencies' and departments' programs, budgets, personnel and legislation, both pending and future.

Meese said that Reagan anticipated no combining of agencies or Cabinet departments, but that he will soon begin studying the possibility of eliminating one or two departments, presumably the Departments of Energy and Education.

"We plan to restructure the system of administering the executive branch, using the Cabinet officers among others," Meese said.